of this Judgement, the position varies from State to State. It has been informed by the Government of Maharashtra that in W.P. No. 649/97 Ravindra Kumar Rai Vs. State of Maharashtra the Supreme Court has directed the Government of Maharashtra to held a Common Entrance Examination for admission to Colleges in Maharashtra, for the year 1998, in accordance with the Regulation of Graduate Medical Education, made by the Medical council of India.

(d) It is for the Government of Maharashtra to take a decision in the matter, keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court in W.P. No. 649/97.

Programmes to eradicate T.B.

1886. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government celebrated the tuberculosis eradiction day on 24th March, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the new programmes launched to eradicate T.B.;

(c) whether it is a fact that a recent WHO study has slammed the country as one of the 'hot zones' for the deadly multi-drug resistant T.B. (M.D.R.-T.B.);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action plan of Government to meet the WHO deadline of 2000 AD for the universal implementation of DOTS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. World T.B. Day is observed to commomorate the discovery of T.B. Germ by Robert Koch, on this day. Continuing Medical Education Programmes were organised on this day, at the Central level and at the District Headquarters of all the 39 Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) Districts taken up in the first year of the World Bank Project.

The new TB Programme (RNTCP) which was launched on 26th March, 1997, envisages an achievement of at least 85% Cure Rate, as against existing Treatment Completion Rate of about 30%.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) WHO's deadline of covering all the Countries with DOTS by 2000 AD will not met by India. India envisages to 102 Districts with a Population of 271.2 million, in the next three years in a phased manner.

Financial support to popularise Laproscopic Surgery

1887. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to popularise and subsidise laproscopic surgery in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering sanction of financial and other kind of support therefor in Assam and other States of the N.E. region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Central Government Hospitals in Delhi have facilities for Laproscopic Surgery. Free Laproscopic Surgery is conducted when surgery is considered necessary as per medical advice, and after obtaining the consent of patient concerned.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) 'Health' is a State subject and it is for the concerned State Government to consider sanctioning financial and other kind of support for popularising and subsidising Laproscopic Surgery.